

SEMS DocID

2261378

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PFE

ISSUE PAPER
SHAFFER EQUIPMENT
MINDEN, WV

Issue:

EPA has sampling results from sites in the vicinity of the Shaffer Equipment site that have been taken over the past few months. The results indicate that no further action other than the removal currently underway is necessary. EPA is preparing to meet with the Congressional offices and local citizens to present the results.

Background:

EPA has done an extensive investigation on the Shaffer Equipment site and at other sites in the area, beginning in 1984 and continuing through to the present. For the Shaffer site, EPA completed one removal operation for PCBs and is in the process of completing another.

Because of concerns of local citizens, EPA recently initiated investigations at a number of other sites in the area that were reported to have been contaminated with PCBs by disposal of dredge materials from the creek running adjacent to the Shaffer site or through other means. The results of this investigation reveal that the only PCB contamination of significance that has ever been found in this area was on the Shaffer site itself. However, that is not to say that the EPA sampling revealed a pristine environment.

Low levels of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons were found in some areas, but these are contaminants commonly found in road tar and other materials, and are not considered health hazards at the levels and locations found.

At three out of thirty-three sampling locations, elevated levels of lead were found, but these were all off of the Shaffer site. Based on our knowledge of Shaffer's operations and previous sampling results, these elevated levels do not appear in any way related to operations on the Shaffer site. The Removal Branch has been notified of these findings and will be evaluating them. However, we believe that these results reflect small, isolated areas of contamination and are not indicative of a widespread problem in the area. This type of contamination can be caused by a spill of leaded gasoline, leaded house paint, or a discarded auto battery.

Other than the contaminants noted above, no significant findings were revealed during the extensive sampling EPA conducted in this area.

OFF

Conclusion: Based on the investigations done to date, the only contamination of significance has been on the Shaffer property itself. EPA has evaluated this site using the revised Hazard Ranking System, and has found that this site still does not rank high enough to be considered for placement on the NPL. EPA is now evaluating the remaining sites (off Shaffer property) to see how they would rank with regard to NPL listing, but based on information available to date, none of these sites would be expected to score significantly high enough to be considered for the NPL.

Current Status: EPA is setting up a meeting for early December with the citizens to present the findings to them. Prior to meeting with the citizens, EPA will offer to meet with the Congressional offices involved to discuss these findings.

Recommendation: The Regional Administrator may want to call the Congressional offices involved to offer to have the Regional Superfund and Public Affairs representatives brief them on the current status.

Prepared by: Gregory Ham
Date: November 21, 1990

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Prepared by: Gregory Ham
Date: November 21, 1990

**Status of Site Assessment Activities Cited
In Rose Letter**

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* Status of July 1990 Sampling

- "hits" are presented in the maps prepared by FIT.
- complete data summaries should be available mid-December
- site inspection reports should be available in Feb./March 1990

* Status of Shaffer building sampling results from October 1990

- PCB/organics preliminary results are in for some samples (soil only, not floor sweepings), "hits" are presented in maps (only PCBs found)
- remaining results should be in soon

* Preliminary HRS ranking

- the new HRS has been signed and should be in the Federal Register next week
- preliminary screenings are being done, results should be available early 1991 (EPA will not release actual scoring sheets, but will discuss results in general terms)

* Summary of Dioxin results over past six years

- due to the amount of sampling that has occurred at this site some additional time is needed to put this information together

* Status of requested soil borings in pit area adjacent to the mine mouth

- Removal sampled leachate coming from the base of this area. This appeared to be the primary migration route from the pit area. The samples indicated no contamination. If liquid wastes had been disposed of in this area, some contamination would be expected in the leachate. Since none was found, the Region does not believe soil borings are called for (unless there is additional evidence of dumping in this area).

* Status of sampling of Mine #3 sediments

- we are not sure what Mr. Rose is referring to, although we believe that mine #3 is the mine mouth located behind the Shaffer property (to the southeast)

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- this mine mouth apparently has been sealed up (or a cavein occurred) approximately 30 feet in from the entrance, so no sediment samples could be collected. A soil sample (S-103) was collected in the accessible area of the mine mouth. No PCBs were detected there. This mine shaft is not used for drinking water, according to the information available to the Region.

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Issue Paper
Shaffer Equipment
Minden, WV

PFE

Issue: West Virginia Senator Jay Rockefeller and citizens of the Minden West Virginia area have been persistent in their efforts to have potential health risks in the Minden area assessed by the Superfund program.

Background: In June, 1989 EPA made a commitment to the Senator that a Listing Site Inspection (LSI) would be performed at the Shaffer Equipment Site to assess its eligibility for the National Priorities List. That decision was based on preliminary data which indicated that the site would score close to the cutoff of 28.5 using the then current Hazard Ranking System (HRS). Since that time EPA has begun to use a newer, proposed HRS to estimate scores prior to performing extensive sampling at a site. This new model considers additional factors such as contaminated soil exposure, food chain, and environmental threats. Because of this change in models we decided that more sampling would be necessary to determine the impact of these additional factors on the HRS score. Based on the new HRS the site no longer appears to score high enough to become eligible for placement on the NPL.

Initially, the WV Dept. of Natural Resources (WV DNR) agreed to perform the LSI. However, in November, 1989, after experiencing a severe staff shortage coupled with the inability to hire replacement staff, the WV DNR indicated that they could no longer perform the work and returned the task to EPA.

When EPA committed to do the LSI, we indicated that we would consider a three mile area around the site. This was the usual area considered by the then current HRS for ground water usage. It now appears that the Senator and local residents believed that EPA would perform environmental sampling for all media within this three mile radius of the site. For the purpose of listing a site it has never been necessary to sample that far from a site because groundwater samples from the immediate area surrounding a site have been sufficient to characterize potential exposure from that pathway. If a site makes the NPL and a subsequent remedial investigation ensues, more extensive sampling typically occurs, radiating from the site.

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When EPA took over the lead for this project at the end of 1989 we made a commitment to do an LSI to provide ATSDR with the environmental data to do a health assessment, which the citizens had also requested. After numerous in-house meetings and conversations with ATSDR staff, a sampling plan was jointly developed.

Present Status: Senator Rockefeller and the local citizens want EPA to expand our efforts beyond the sampling planned by EPA and ATSDR. In response to the concern of all involved, the Superfund program will perform additional investigations including sampling in the area to assess the environmental conditions in areas remote from the site. This effort will consist of a combined site discovery, Preliminary Assessment, and Screening Site Inspection at those areas which the local citizens believe may have been impacted by operations at the Shaffer Equipment site. As part of the process we and our Field Investigation Team will meet with local citizens to plan the sampling.

This process will be extremely expedited compared to the time these activities normally take. If the sampling results indicate pathways for contaminants which are sufficient to propose an area for the NPL, we will propose that site. However, if the new site is remote from the Shaffer Equipment site it probably will not cause the Shaffer equipment to be listed on the NPL.

Future Actions:

1. 4/24-26/90 Coordinate with Public Affairs.
2. 4/24-26/90 Discuss with Regional Administrator.
3. 4/24-26/90 Coordinate with FIT Contractor.
4. After go ahead, contact local citizens to arrange for a meeting, site visits, sampling plan development.
5. Within one - three weeks meet with citizens, visit sites, identify appropriate property owners, develop sampling plans.
6. within two weeks after lab space is obtained conduct site visits and sampling.

Prepared by: Ben Mykijewycz
Date: April 24, 1990

Shaffer Equipment Site Summary
Minden, West Virginia

Site History: Inactive facility which operated from 1970 until 1985.

Company produced electrical mining equipment.

Equipment contained PCB fluids which were released to soils.

EPA Actions: December 1984-December 1987: EPA's Removal Program removed 4,735 tons of PCB contaminated soils, 23 capacitors, 24 drums of transformer fluids, 32 drums of transformer fluid flush, 31 transformers, 50 drums of solids, 4 drums of coagulant, and 9 drums of PCB contaminated soils.

September 1986: Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection reports completed using available information by WVDNR and EPA, respectively.

December 1986: Draft HRS prepared by FIT. It was not finalized because of outstanding issues regarding an observed release to ground water.

January 1989: Final HRS score is less than 28.5.

April 24, 1989: Meeting with Senator Rockefeller, EPA Superfund, ATSDR, WVDNR, and concerned citizens.

August 21, 1989: 21 additional drums of waste materials were removed from the site.

February, 1990: Based on discussions with ATSDR, a sampling plan was approved jointly by ATSDR and EPA. This assessment will provide ATSDR with necessary information to perform a health assessment.

March 20-21, 1990: Field work was performed at the site. This assessment consisted of onsite and offsite sampling.

May 3, 1990: EPA received a complete package of sample results prior to QA and forwarded it to ATSDR.

Initial results revealed a high mercury concentration (15.4 ppb) at Minden intake, used as a supply source for the Oak Hill

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Division of the West Virginia American Water Company. Also, test results revealed elevated concentrations of PCBs above 50ppm (up to 660 ppm) onsite. Offsite (backyards) PCB concentration was low (up to 2.1 ppm).

May 7, 1990: A conference call was held to discuss a plan of action to address concerns about the high mercury level revealed at the intake. Participants in the conference call were NUS personnel and EPA representatives David Seter, Drinking Water Program; Carrie Dietzel, Public Affairs Office; Rich Kampf, Congressional Affairs; Dick Brunker, Superfund toxicologist; Maria Malave, SIO and Ben Mykijewycz, chief of Pre- Remedial Section.

It was concluded that this detection of of mercury was unusual and probably a result of a laboratory QC problem.

As a result of this conference call, participants agreed that the best approach was to immediately re-sample the intakes and treated water for mercury. Also, Dave Seter would contact the WV State to find out about any recent sample results and inform the Pre-Remedial Section. WV informed EPA that they last sampled in January 1990 and tests results revealed no mercury above 0.5 ppb.

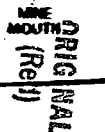
May 8, 1990: Resampling of the Minden intakes and treated water was performed by TAT.

May 9, 1990: TAT verbally informed EPA that non dedetectable levels ("ND") of mercury were revealed in the sample using a 0.05 ppb detection limit.

May 11, 1990: Superfund waiting to hear from Congressional Affairs to start contacting citizens to arrange for further investigation. This new initiative will address not only nearby areas associated with the site but also remote areas that could not be associated with the site but will be address as a discovery initiative.

Currently coordinating with the Emergency Response Program to address PCB contamination problem at the site.

Prepared by: María T. Malavé
Date: May 11, 1990



All kits PCB-Aroclor 1260
in ug/kg (ppb)

FIGURE



NUS
CORPORATION

Shaffer Equipment Site
Minden, West Virginia

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ISSUE:

Final removal action has taken place at the Shaffer Equipment Site in Minden, West Virginia.

BACKGROUND:

After the original PCB cleanup at the Shaffer Site, a number of miscellaneous drums of material were left on-site pending removal by the responsible party. Unfortunately, this never occurred; and the drums remained on-site in a deteriorating manner.

During the Spring of 1989, the Removal Program made plans for the final removal of these drums and offered the responsible party a final opportunity to do so. Upon confirmation that the responsible party would not be able to do so, the OSC obtained funding authorization and made the arrangements for the final disposal.

PRESENT STATUS:

The 21 drums of material which had been left on-site at the earlier close out of the Removal Action were removed on Wednesday, August 23, 1989 for ultimate disposal by EPA's clean-up contractor.

Along with the 21 drums were a roll-off box containing the soil which EPA had excavated from beneath the drums and a tanker truck containing the liquid which had been contained in the diked area. All of these materials have now been removed.

COORDINATION:

OPA (Hal Yates) and OCIL (Rich Kampf and Ray George) have been notified

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Phil Younis, OSC (597-9328)
Charlie Kleeman, (597-4018)

Significant Issue
Shaffer Equipment Site
Minden, W. Va.

WJG/ML
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Issue: The EPA Removal Program and Pre-Remedial Program are actively pursuing a course of action in answer to the concerns from the citizens, W.Va. Senator Rockefeller and Congressman Staggers.

Background: Samples collected by FIT on March 20-21, 1990 indicated the presence PCB both on and offsite at concentrations of concern. This information has been passed to the Removal Program for further evaluation as to the need for additional excavation. Congressional Affairs Officer, Kampf, has met with Senator Rockefeller's staff and has formalized the expected actions and future actions. EPA has agreed to further evaluate the site and to investigate other potential sites within a three mile radius. In addition, the results of past and future evaluations will be forwarded to ATSDR to be used in their health assessment.

Present
Status:

The citizens, Senator Rockefeller and Congressman Staggers want EPA to greatly expand our efforts beyond what has been done and what was planned for the site. EPA has agreed to further evaluate the site under existing protocols and to evaluate other areas within a three mile radius as separate actions.

A sampling visit was conducted by TAT on May 22, 1990. The OSC designed this sampling as a duplication of the previous FIT sampling to verify the presence of PCB above action levels. Previous how clean is clean sampling done at the completion of the earlier Removal Action indicated that the site was cleaned to below the original action level of 50 PPM PCB. In addition, clean imported fill material was brought to the site as backfill. It is difficult to believe that contamination still exists on the site proper and if it does these levels may indicate a new source of contamination.

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Future

Actions: Upon receipt of the TAT analytical results, expected May 30, 1990, Removal will react accordingly. If contamination is found, Removal will undertake additional excavation activities. In addition, the OSC contemplates fencing the property to avoid public access.

EPA's Pre-Remedial Section plans to visit the site and tour the three mile area beginning on May 29, 1990. These visits will include the local citizens, and staff from Senator Rockefeller and Congressman Staggers. EPA Kampf, Mykijewycz and Malave will be participating.

Prepared by: Bob Caron, OSC
Date: May 24, 1990

SIGNIFICANT ISSUE
Schaffer Equipment Company Site
Minden, West Virginia

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Issue:

In response to residents concerns about their health, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) will be conducting a health assessment for the Schaffer Equipment site at the request of the State Health Department. EPA is conducting a site assessment, which will include sampling, to provide ATSDR with information about the nature and extent of contamination at the site.

Background:

The Schaffer Equipment Company site is an inactive facility which operated from 1970 until approximately 1985. The facility produced electrical substation equipment such as transformers and capacitors for the coal mining industry. The site is approximately two acres in size. The site is located on the southern bank of Arbuckle Creek in the town of Minden, approximately 1.5 miles east of Oak Hill, West Virginia.

Between 1984 -1987 an emergency response action was performed at the site to eliminate a direct contact threat posed by the site. The emergency response consisted of the removal of transformers, capacitors, transformers fluids, and related equipment containing PCB as well as the excavation and disposal of 4735 tons of PCB contaminated soil. Remaining on-site at the close of this removal action were nineteen drums of miscellaneous non-PCB waste materials. Because Mrs. Schaffer was unable to carry out the agreement of arranging for the final disposal of these drums, EPA went back to the site on May 1-5, 1989. The drums were sampled and overpacked as well as the soil beneath the drums. The water from the diked containment in which the drums were located had also been placed in a tank truck. At the present time, all transportation and disposal arrangements have been completed and materials have been removed off-site. The On-Scene Coordinator report is in the process of being written.

Current Status:

EPA approved a sampling plan based on discussions with ATSDR at the end of February, 1990. EPA's contractor, NUS Corporation, will be performing the field work during the week of March 19, 1990. During this site assessment on and off site sampling of ground water, surface water, sediments and soils will be taken.

Prepared By:
Maria T. Malave
March 15, 1990